

Selfridge Field,
Building #1514, (Chapel) (Reserve Forces General Training)
Schoolhouse Road north South Perimeter Road
~~Harrison Township~~, Mt. Clemens Vicinity
Macomb County
Michigan

HAER No. MI-116-TT

HAER
MICH
50-MTCLE.V,
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PHOTOGRAPHS

WRITTEN HISTORICAL AND DESCRIPTIVE DATA

HISTORIC AMERICAN ENGINEERING RECORD
NATIONAL PARK SERVICE
GREAT LAKES SYSTEMS OFFICE
1709 JACKSON STREET
OMAHA, NEBRASKA 68102-2571

HISTORIC AMERICAN ENGINEERING RECORD

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SELFRIDGE FIELD,
BUILDING #1514, (CHAPEL)
(Reserve Forces General Training)

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I. INTRODUCTION

Location: Schoolhouse Road north of South Perimeter Road
Selfridge Air National Guard Base
Mt. Clemens vicinity, Macomb County, Michigan

Quad/UTM: U.S.G.S. Mt. Clemens East Quadrangle, Universal
Transverse Mercator Coordinates:
17.348730.4717310

Date of Construction: 1965

Present Owner: Air National Guard
3500 Fetchet Avenue
Andrews Air Force Base, Maryland 20762

Present Use: Reserve Forces Operational Training

Significance: Building #1514 was erected to serve as the chapel
for the self-contained U.S. Army regional Nike
headquarters, command structures and missile
batteries, that occupied the southwest portion of
Selfridge. This chapel edifice was an integral part of
the complex that administered to the spiritual needs
of the servicemen serving on the front lines of the
Cold War.

Historian: William Rutter, Midwest Environmental Consultants,
May, 1996

II. HISTORY

This Building was erected in 1965 from plans provided by the Department of Defense. The 28th Artillery Group (Air Defense), a unit of the Air Defense Command (ADC) under the control of NORAD, set up its headquarters at Selfridge in the southwest portion of the base in 1952. Initially in charge of administering the 90 millimeter gun emplacements for protecting cities such as Detroit, it was later assigned the responsibility of providing combat-ready air defense missile units for defense of the Detroit-Cleveland area and administered NIKE missile battalions at Selfridge and others ringing Detroit and Cleveland. In 1969, the NIKE missiles were removed from Selfridge and the remaining 28th Artillery Group administrative personnel were moved from the original location in the southwest corner of base to an area adjacent to 661st Radar Squadron. The 28th Artillery Group was deactivated 1974. After Nike missiles were removed in the early 1970s the building was converted for use as a reserve forces training facility.

III. DESCRIPTION

This building is a rectangular plan, 23 by 53 foot concrete block, front gabled, single-story structure. The entry facade features projecting four foot

extensions of east and west walls that anchor horizontal wood beams supporting the flat porch roof above the primary pedestrian access. The open gable above may once have supported art glass but now displays "camouflage" pattern fill. A wood pinnacle rises from the apex of the gable.

Four concrete block pilasters support the side elevations, each set flanking two steel frame casement windows defining six bays. A 6 by 9 foot projecting concrete block kneewall and vertical ribbed metal panel vestibule extends from the northeast corner of the building.

The interior of the building consists primary of the large open space that was occupied by the sacristy. The chancel occupies a raised platform across the north end of the building. The entry vestibule is a hall that runs between two small rooms in the southwest and southeast corner of the building, apparently serving as an office and store room. The floor is covered in asbestos tile, while tongue-and-groove pine paneling sheaths the gable ends and entry hall. Other walls are of concrete block.

IV. BIBLIOGRAPHY

A. BOOKS

Anonymous, History of Selfridge Air Force Base, Michigan, unpublished

ms., Air Force Historical Research Agency, Maxwell Air Force Base, Alabama, 1967.

_____, Guide and Directory, Selfridge Air Force Base, Selfridge Air Force Base, Michigan, 1960.

Nigro, Louis, Selfridge Air National Guard Base, An Unofficial History, unpublished ms., Public Information Office, Selfridge ANG Base, Michigan, 1977.

B. INTERVIEWS

Colonel Robert Stone (Ret.), Curator, Selfridge Base Museum, October 13, 1995.

Eric Reeve, Selfridge Environmental Management, October 12, 1995.